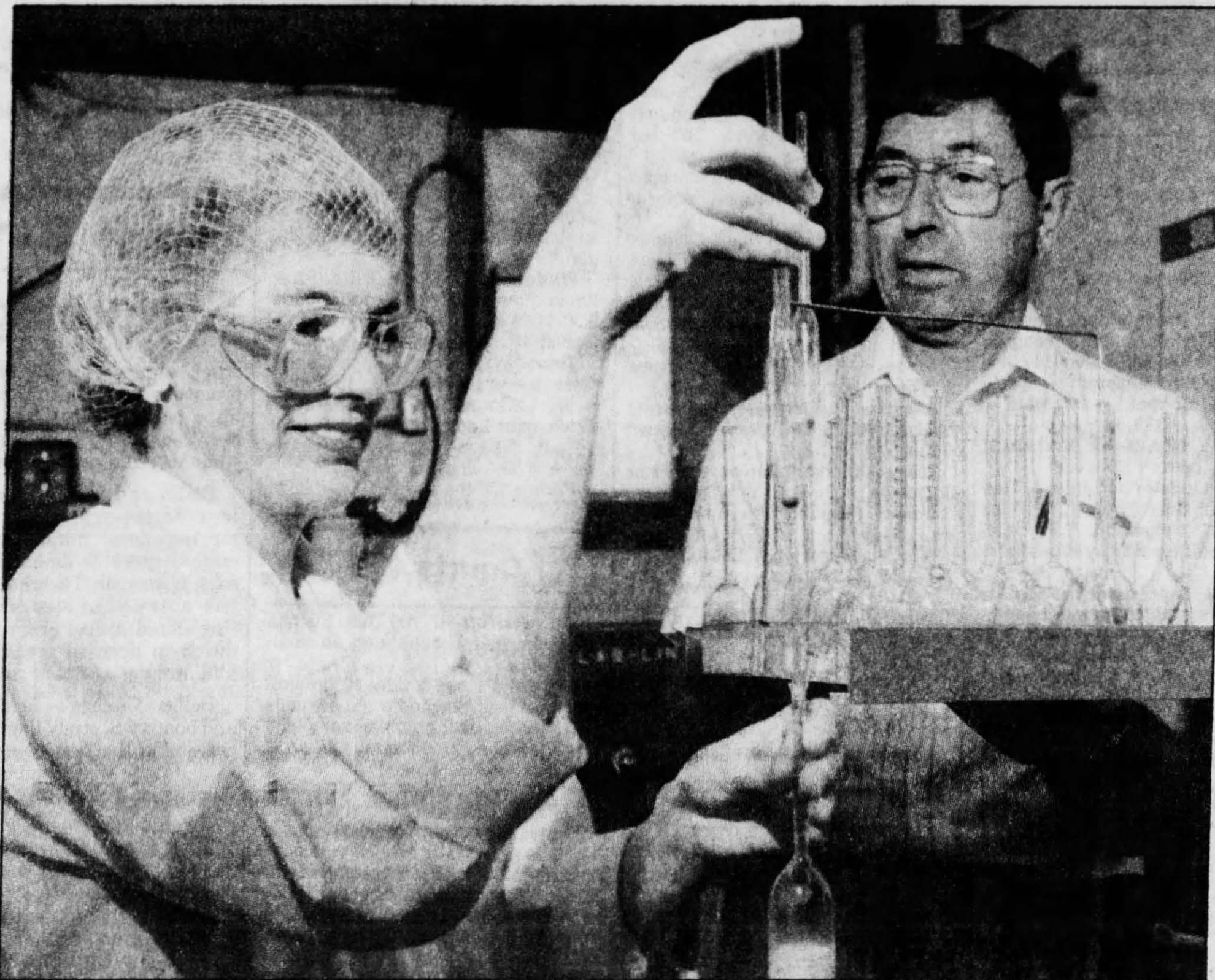


This week's community profile: Hollandtown



Cheese whizzes: Dick Eiting, general manager of White Clover Dairy in Hollandtown, watches as

Nancy Mader checks milk samples in the dairy's laboratory.

Is this paradise? Schut, yes

By Karil Van Boxel

Press-Gazette

HOLLANDTOWN — No windmills are here but many descendents of Dutch settlers are.

The Brown County community is near the Outagamie and Calumet county borders. Its St. Francis School had an enrollment of 83 students in first through eighth grades last year, all but 21 of the community's school-age children.

Press-Gazette photos
by Ken Behrend

St. Francis Church, built when Martin Van Abel and his fellow farmers established the Dutch community in 1848, has 256 families, the Rev. William Rickert said.

"If you talk to people, they'll say, off the record, this is paradise," Rickert, 70, said. "I like it here, too. We're not in the doldrums about this community."

Dick Eiting, 55, general manager of White Clover Dairy, grew up here.

The dairy was started in 1897 by farmers who needed a way to market their milk. It employs 140 people. Among its eight varieties of cheeses are Gouda and Edam, under the HollandFarm label.

In 1980 it began making Veal Plus, a liquid calf feed requested by Holland Veal Inc., a 2,000-head operation started nearby on Brown County D in 1978.

Area residents with a craving for family style chicken often go to Van Abel's Supper Club and Lanes.

Owners Don Van Abel, 69, and his brother, Will, 71, built the business. Their father, William, ran a tavern and



The Hollandtown file

□ **Population:** 400

□ **Name game:** The state map says it's Holland but, "It's always been Hollandtown from way back," says Don Van Abel whose grandfather was a founder.

□ **Dutch treat:** A schut festival once was an all-day event, says Cliff Vandeyacht, St. Francis Schut Society treasurer. It probably started in Holland in the 14th century when men had to be sharpshooters to protect communities.

dance hall on the site. Grandfather, Martin, started the family business tradition by renting rooms to travelers and stabling their horses.

Will said that as a boy he fished on Dam Creek and skated on the pond near the cheese plant.

Hollandtown may be best known for the schut, pronounced "shoot."

The 141st schut, sponsored by the St. Francis Schut Society, will be Sunday, Aug. 11. Participants shoot a rifle at a large rubber and tin bird on a 100-foot tower. Prize money is paid for hitting the wings and head.

The person who gets the last shot is declared king, gets \$130 and wears a ceremonial jacket, said Cliff Vandeyacht, owner of Brooks Oil Co.

Karen Broeren, 40, Brown County D, is helping her husband, Bob, secretary of the society, restore the schut to a family tradition. She taught the children wooden-shoe dances a couple of years ago and got them into Dutch costumes for the pa-

rade.

This year they may present a program on Hollandtown's history.

"We have a lot of new people in town and young couples who don't know anything about it (schut)," she said. "We try to make it fun for the children. But they learn a lot while doing it, too."

Roger Van Eperen, 57, has lived here 31 years and walks only two blocks to work at his Holland Cold Storage business on County D. "We like this small community. Everyone's friendly," he said.

Dennis Schmidt, 43, owner of Schmidt's Building and Equipment, said the business is 60 percent agriculture related. When his boat sank at his cabin, he asked his brother, Lyle, to make a boat lift. Now the company sells lifts and docks, too.

"It's kind of like family," he said of the community.

■ **Next week:** Advance in Shawano County



Schut fest: Cliff Vandeyacht, left photo, adjusts the message on a board outside Schut Acres. It announces the

upcoming shooting event. Above, Will and Don Van Abel check walleye filets and cuts of beef at their supper club.